

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

17. (Currently Amended) A method of selling prescription contact lenses using a system comprising a first group information processing apparatus and a plurality of second group information processing apparatus, connected through a communication network, both the first group information processing apparatus and the plurality of second group information processing apparatus writing data on respective recording media and reading the data from the respective recording media, each recording medium being used by only one corresponding customer, said method comprising:

transferring customer identification, address, and diagnostic data pertaining to a respective customer from a physician said plurality of second group information processing apparatus located at offices of respective optical care providers to said first group information processing apparatus located at a contact lens provider through a the communication network;

assigning a registration number to the customer and storing the registration number assigned in relationship with the customer identification and diagnostic data transferred to the provider;

providing the registration number assigned and selling agent data for a selling agent closest in geographical relation to the customer based on the customer address data, from the contact lens provider to the customer, through the communication network;

delivering a contact lens from the selling agent to the customer; and

transferring delivery data from the selling agent to the contact lens provider through the communication network.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, including delivering notification of an approaching deadline to replace the contact lens from the contact lens provider to the customer through the communication network.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~18~~ 17, including offering new contact lenses to the customer in exchange for old contact lenses at irregular times, upon any of loss of transparency of the contact lenses, breakage of the contact lenses, and scratching or soiling of the contact lenses, and a monthly payment by the customer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, including periodically offering for sale contact lens care articles by the contact lens provider to the customer through the communication network.

In re Appln. of TANAKA et al.
Application No. 09/209,454

21. (New) The method of Claim 19, including contracting for a one year term with the respective customer for supplying long-term-use contact lenses in exchange for the old contact lenses and the monthly payment.
